

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
Small Group Ministry Program
Success
Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, Oregon, March 2011

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING OR SOUND A CHIME (2 to 3 minutes for this and silence and opening words)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

As surely as we belong to the universe we belong together. We join here to transcend the isolated self, to reconnect, to know ourselves to be at home, here on earth, under the stars, linked with each other.
(By Rev. Margaret A. Keip)

CHECK-IN (up to 20 to 30 minutes total with up to 2 to 3 minutes per person)

TOPIC AND SHARING (up to 70 minutes for readings, questions, a few minutes for reflection and making notes if desired, individual sharing, optional open discussion at the end if the group agrees, with an optional 5 minute break about midway in the session)

READINGS

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded!
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

To participate is to win.
-Author unknown

Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.
-Motto of the Special Olympics

Those who have succeeded at anything and don't mention luck are kidding themselves.
-Larry King^[L]_[SEP]

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
-Author Unknown

In order to succeed you must fail, so that you know what not to do the next time.
-Anthony J. D'Angelo

The two hardest things to handle in life are failure and success.
-Author Unknown

The toughest thing about success is that you've got to keep on being a success.
-Irving Berlin

QUESTIONS (Please respond to whichever question or questions you feel moved to answer. It is not necessary to respond to all of the questions. You may also respond to any of the readings that you find to be particularly meaningful.)

1. Share about success, as you define it, that you have experienced. How has that shaped you? What have you learned?
2. How has what you consider to be success changed over time?
3. What are some of the “mixed blessings” of being successful that you have experienced?
4. Are there any successes you would like to achieve in the future, and why?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (up to 5-10 minutes)

- Confirm next meeting date, time, location, and topic.
- Consider discussing the service project.
- Review the UUCE SGM Covenant of Right Relationship as a check on how the group is doing with the agreements made in the first meeting.
- Offer feedback about the facilitation and the SGM program so far.
- Other

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share, up to 5 minutes total)

CLOSING WORDS (2 minutes for words, and closing)

Hold on to what we have created, and keep a picture in your mind’s eye. Hold onto the connections we are developing, even if they seem invisible. Hold onto the promise that we will meet again in a valued space and time.

-Adapted from “Small Group Ministry For Youth”, by Helen Zidowecki

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE OR SOUND A CHIME (and additional optional closing ritual if agreed to)

(Preparation for the facilitator. Please bring the SGM Facilitator Training Manual, paper and writing implements, the lesson plan, and your calendar/date book.)

Lesson plan prepared by the Small Group Ministry steering committee (Laura Adams; Dick Loescher, chair; Sandy Moses; Leora White) and Rev. Alicia Forsey 2/8/11